

Государственная поддержка сельского хозяйства, кроме сельхозпроизводителей, должна затронуть организации, занимающиеся реализацией мероприятий по строительству (приобретению) жилья в сельской местности; организации пищевой и перерабатывающей промышленности, производящие первичную переработку сельскохозяйственной продукции; организации, предоставляющие услуги сельскохозяйственным товаропроизводителям в области растениеводства и животноводства; сельскохозяйственные кредитные и потребительские кооперативы; фонды поддержки малого предпринимательства и сельского развития.

## **ANALYSIS OF POSSIBILITIES OF GAINING EUROPEAN FUNDS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN RURAL AREAS**

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After the Polish accession to the European Union, agriculture and rural areas under the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund gained considerable sums of money in order to support the restructuring and modernization of food sector by financing activities under the Rural Development Plan and the Sectoral Operational Programme "Restructuring and Modernisation of Food Sector and Rural Development." Since 2007 support for the agricultural sector and rural areas has been financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural financing the Rural Development Programme. The funds under this program are primarily intended to carry out projects related to improving the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry, improvement of environment and rural areas as well as quality of life in rural areas and to diversify the rural economy. They provide an opportunity for rural areas with poorly developed and fragmented agriculture and high unemployment.

European funding opportunities for development of entrepreneurship in rural areas.

Fragmentation of farms, large fluctuations in agricultural prices and high production costs influence the achievement of the low-income by rural residents from agricultural activities and increase in unemployment among the rural population. Thus, there is a need to create alternative sources of income outside agriculture. The development of entrepreneurship is an op-

portunity to increase the income of the rural population. This chance is given by Rural Development Programme for 2007-2013 through "Diversification into non-agricultural activities" and "Establishment and development of micro enterprises." Year by year these activities become more popular amongst the rural population. According to data from the Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture in all collections completed so far 16 704 applications were submitted with regard to the "Diversification ...." action and the 15 523 applications with regard to the "creation and development of micro enterprises" [1].

The "Diversification into non-agricultural activities" was earmarked 345.6 million. Until 30.09.2011r. 9547 projects were subsidized totaling 482 293 052.18 zł. This amount will increase in the near future due to the unfinished verification of applications from 2010, most of which will be funded. The average grant is varied regionally and ranges from 37 894 zł in Świętokrzyskie to 59 709 zł in Lubuskie. Nationally, the average grant amount is 50517.76 zł ie slightly more than half of the realizable amounts of aid [1].

In the years 2008-2010 in all application collections completed so far 16 704 applications were submitted with the action "Diversification ...." and the 15 523 applications of "creation and development of micro enterprises." But not everyone received aid. Filling the application and supporting it with valid documentation was not easy. Majority of applicants for funding chose to use professional help to prepare all the necessary and difficult dossier. Despite that large proportion of them was considered negatively which was the main cause of failure to meet the criteria for aid grant by applicants, deficiencies in the proposals and failing to meet deadlines for the submission of the necessary additions to the application. A large part of applications were construction projects that require the submission of building permits, estimates and projects, where the applicants had problems. The rest of the applicants decided to purchase equipment, machines, tools, equipment or means of transport.

Finally, it can be said that obtaining financing does not require to submit such a complicated of documentation and is faster and easier process, and chances of getting funding are much larger. By 30.09.2011r. grants under the act "Diversification ..." were given to beneficiaries, which represents 57% of all submitted applications. In contrast 6231 beneficiaries benefited from the action "Creating ..." according to data from 11.23.2011, which represents approximately 35% of all applications [1].

#### LITERATURE

1. ARMA Data, Information on the number and amounts of applications and the number of contracts within the "Diversification into non-agricultural activities RDP 2007-2013" Action, 21/10/2011.